

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05

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H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2597

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0030

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR AO ZA FR

SUBJECT:FRENCH VIEW OF SOVIET INTENTIONS IN ANGOLA

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR (FRANCAIS) INDICATED EEC NINE AMBASSADORS IN LUSAKA HAVE DETECTED CLEAR SHIFT IN SOVIET POSITION ON ANGOLA COINCIDENT WITH RECENT PRAVDA REPORT OF MORE CONCILIATORY RUSSIAN LINE ON WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND GOVT OF NATIONAL UNITY (GONU). SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND COUNSELOR IN LUSAKA HAVE BOTH BEEN ACTIVE SPEAKING WITH CONVICTION OF IMPOSSIBILITY OF TOTAL MILITARY VICTORY BY MPLA AND NEED FOR NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID MEANING OF SOVIET INTENTIONS MADE MORE CLEAR TO HIM BY EXTRAPOLATION FROM CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH JORGE SANGUMBA, UNITA'S SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. SANGUMBA SUGGESTED STRONG POSSIBILITY FNLA FORCES DEFENDING NORTHERN ANGOLA

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AGAINST MPLA'S PRE-OAU SUMMIT PUTSCH FOR MORE GROUND

MIGHT COLLAPSE COMPLETELY, LEAVING ANGOLA DIVIDED IN TWO WITH MPLA DOMINANT IN NORTH AND UNITA IN SOUTH. THUS WHEN SOVIETS TALK OF GONU, IT LIKELY THEY HAVE IN MIND EVENTUAL MERGER OF NORTH AND SOUTH. THIS INCIDENTALLY IS SAME THESIS PROPOUNDED BY GUYANESE FONMIN WILLS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT (LUSAKA 4). FRANCAIS SAID HE TRIED OUT THIS SCENARIO ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR BUT FOUND HIM IN GENUINELY CONCERNED BUT UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW FINAL SETTLEMENT IN ANGOLA WOULD BE WORKED OUT.

3. WE UNSUCCESSFUL IN TRYING BY INDIRECT MEANS TO DRAW FRENCH AMBASSADOR OUT ON FAIRLY RELIABLE REPORT THAT PARIS UNDER IMPRESSION SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS SPLIT ON ISSUE OF STAYING IN OR PULLING OUT OF ANGOLA, WITH FONMIN GROMYKO FAVORING PULL-OUT. CAN MOSCOW OR WASHINGTON COMMENT ON VALIDITY OF THIS REPORT?

4. FRANCAIS VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD GOTTEN DRESSING DOWN FROM ZAMBIAN STATE HOUSE JAN 6 BECAUSE "EUROPEANS WITHOUT COURAGE" TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED IN RESISTANCE TO SOVIETS AND CUBANS ON ANGOLA. FENCH AMBASSADOR LAMELY SAID CHONA'S PROPOSAL TO BRITISH FOR EEC INITIATIVE WHICH WAS PASSED TO OTHERS IN NINE WAS FEARED BY QUAI TO RUN RISK OF BEING COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
WILKOWSKI

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